

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 4, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2198

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

(Principal coauthor: ~~Senator~~ *coauthors: Senators Hill and Steinberg*)

February 20, 2014

An act to add Sections 2915.3, 2915.4, 4980.393, 4980.394, 4989.21, 4989.35, 4996.27, 4996.275, 4999.37, and 4999.77 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2198, as amended, Levine. Mental health professionals: suicide prevention training.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various professionals who provide mental health-related services, including psychologists, marriage and family therapists, educational psychologists, professional clinical counselors, and clinical social workers. Under existing law, an applicant for licensure in these professions is required to complete certain coursework or training in order to be eligible for a license. Existing law also requires these professionals to participate in continuing education as a prerequisite for renewing their license.

This bill would require a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, professional clinical counselor, and clinical social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, to complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management before he or she may be issued a license. The bill would also require, commencing January 1, 2016, a

person licensed in these professions *or any applicant for licensure* who began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, to take a six-hour continuing education course in suicide assessment, treatment, and management in order to renew his or her license.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2915.3 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:

3 2915.3. (a) Any applicant for licensure as a psychologist who
4 began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, shall complete,
5 as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact hours of
6 coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and management.

7 (b) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the
8 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

9 SEC. 2. Section 2915.4 is added to the Business and Professions
10 Code, to read:

11 2915.4. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who
12 began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a
13 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide
14 assessment, treatment, and management during his or her first
15 renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall
16 submit to the board evidence acceptable to the board of the person's
17 satisfactory completion of that course.

18 (b) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the
19 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

20 (c) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
21 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
22 required by Section 2915.

23 (d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

24 SEC. 3. Section 4980.393 is added to the Business and
25 Professions Code, immediately following Section 4980.39, to read:

26 4980.393. (a) An applicant for licensure who began graduate
27 study on or after January 1, 2016, and whose education qualifies
28 him or her under Section 4980.36 or ~~4980.37~~ 4980.37, shall
29 complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15 contact
30 hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and
31 management.

1 SEC. 4. Section 4980.394 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:

3 4980.394. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who
4 began graduate study before January 1, 2016, shall complete a
5 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide
6 assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first
7 renewal period after the operative date of this section and shall
8 submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the
9 person's satisfactory completion of the course.

10 (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
11 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
12 required by Section 4980.54.

13 (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

14 SEC. 5. Section 4989.21 is added to the Business and
15 Professions Code, to read:

16 4989.21. (a) Any applicant for licensure as an educational
17 psychologist who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016,
18 shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 15
19 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment, and
20 management.

21 (b) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the
22 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

23 SEC. 6. Section 4989.35 is added to the Business and
24 Professions Code, to read:

25 4989.35. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who
26 began graduate study before January 1, 2016, shall complete a
27 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide
28 assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first
29 renewal period after the operative date of this section and shall
30 submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the
31 person's satisfactory completion of the course.

32 (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
33 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
34 required by Section 4989.34.

35 (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

36 SEC. 7. Section 4996.27 is added to the Business and
37 Professions Code, immediately following Section 4996.26, to read:

38 4996.27. (a) Any applicant for licensure as a licensed clinical
39 social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1,
40 2016, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of

1 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment,
2 and management.

3 (b) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the
4 applicant has met the requirements of this section.

5 SEC. 8. Section 4996.275 is added to the Business and
6 Professions Code, immediately following Section 4996.27, to read:

7 4996.275. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who
8 began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a
9 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide
10 assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first
11 renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall
12 submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the
13 person's satisfactory completion of the course.

14 (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
15 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
16 required in Section 4996.22.

17 (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

18 SEC. 9. Section 4999.37 is added to the Business and
19 Professions Code, to read:

20 4999.37. An applicant for examination eligibility or registration
21 who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2016, and whose
22 education qualifies him or her under Section 4999.32 or ~~4999.33~~
23 ~~4999.33~~, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum
24 of 15 contact hours of coursework in suicide assessment, treatment,
25 and management.

26 SEC. 10. Section 4999.77 is added to the Business and
27 Professions Code, to read:

28 4999.77. (a) A licensee *or any applicant for licensure* who
29 began graduate study prior to January 1, 2016, shall complete a
30 six-hour continuing education course in best practices for suicide
31 assessment, treatment, and management, during his or her first
32 renewal period after the operative date of this section, and shall
33 submit to the board evidence, acceptable to the board, of the
34 person's satisfactory completion of the course.

35 (b) Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this section
36 shall be applied to the 36 hours of approved continuing education
37 required in Section 4999.76.

38 (c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2016.

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